

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 and 7-23 are currently pending. Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to expedite prosecution and allowance of the application. Claims 2-4 have been amended. The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on January 6, 2004.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Salo patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,151), and were also rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claim 1 of the Salo patent. Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to expedite prosecution and gain allowance of the application. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 4, which is allowable for reasons discussed below. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 4 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable. Claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 2 has been retained in dependent form as depending from claim 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 are in condition for allowance, and allowance of the same is respectfully requested.

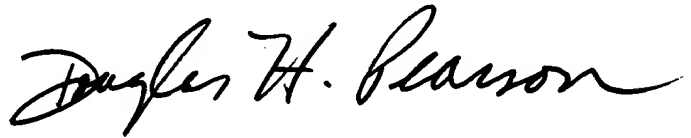
In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and objection of record are respectfully requested so that the present application may pass to issuance. Should there be any questions in connection with this application, the Office is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: January 27, 2004

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas H. Pearson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Douglas H. Pearson
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